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THE NEGRO FARMER

Vol. 2, No. 6 Tuskegee Institute, Ala. April 10, 1915

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Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those With Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers

Vol. 2, No. 6 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., April 10, 1915 5c Per Copy. $1.00 Per Year

PLAN OF A SMALL BACKYARD GARDEN FOR THE SOUTH

Washington, D. C.—A small backyard garden 75 feet long and 50 feet wide, particularly suitable for gardeners in Southern cities, has been planned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's specialist. In a previous article a plan was shown for a half-acre garden; the present suggestion is made for those who have not the room for such an extensive patch, but desire to have a supply of vegetables for the home.

Provision has been made in the plan for a hotbed, cold frame, and open seed beds running the length of the garden; also for an asparagus bed and a rhubarb or perennial herb bed. The other vegetables are planted in rows running across the width, and the suggested order in which the various kinds might appear, and in which later crops might follow is given herewith:

Lettuce, Radishes followed by Celery.
Onions followed by Celery.
Parsnips followed by Celery.
Carrots followed by Kale.
Beets followed by Kale.
Peas—Early Varieties followed by Fall Cabbage.
Peas—Late Varieties followed by Fall Cabbage.
Beans followed by Fall Potatoes.
Cabbage followed by Fall Potatoes.
Cauliflower, Kohl-Rabi followed by Fall Potatoes.
Tomatoes followed by Spinach.
Eggplants, Peppers followed by Spinach.
Cucumbers followed by Turnips.
Muskmelons or Squash followed by Turnips.
Early Potatoes followed by Fall Beans.
Sweet Corn followed by Fall Peas.

In the above plan, the first two rows are devoted one to lettuce and one to radishes, the two crops to be followed later by celery. The next three rows are devoted to onions from seed sown in place and are to be followed later by celery.

The next two rows are devoted to parsnips to be followed later by celery and the next two rows are devoted to carrots to be followed in the autumn by kale. The next three rows are to be devoted to garden beets sown in succession and followed in the autumn by a crop of kale.

The next two rows, which are 3 feet apart, are to be devoted to early varieties of peas, the first sown about a week before the second row, and after the crops are removed the land is to be devoted to autumn cabbage. Two additional rows are to be sown to late peas planted in the same order as the first and also followed by autumn cabbage. The pea patch adjoins three rows devoted to beans, which are to be followed by autumn potatoes. The next two rows are devoted to cabbage, followed in the autumn by potatoes.

The next row is devoted to cauliflower or kohl-rabi, to be followed in the autumn by potatoes. The next two rows are devoted to tomatoes tied to stakes, and after the tomatoes have been harvested the land is sown in spinach. The next row is devoted partly to eggplants and partly by peppers to be followed later in the season by spinach. The next row, which is six feet from the eggplants, is devoted to cucumbers to be followed after the cucumbers are harvested by an autumn crop of turnips.

The next row is 8 feet from the cucumbers and is devoted to muskmelons or squashes, followed by turnips in the autumn. The next 2 rows are devoted to early potatoes, followed by autumn sown beans, and the next three rows are given over to sweet corn, planted one row each week after the proper season for planting has arrived and to be followed in the autumn by peas.

Where the distance between the rows is less than two feet, hand cultivation with a wheel hoe is contemplated. If a hand cultivator or wheel hoe is not available, the rows should be at least 2 feet apart to give sufficient space for the horse cultivator, straight lines should be followed, no matter what method of culture is used.

Of course, the plan is only suggestive, and each grower will have to devise additional plans to suit his own conditions. Among the things that particularly must be considered in each specific case is the location of the garden. In this connection the question of proximity to the house should be given first consideration. As the work of caring for the garden is usually done in spare time, the location selected should be as near the house as possible. The slope and type of soil should be the next considerations. A slope to the South or Southeast is usually preferable, because here the soil warms up early in the spring, which permits early planting and stimulates the early growth of crops. Practically any type of soil can be used for the garden, but a sandy loam is to be preferred.

Good drainage is of prime importance. The land should have sufficient fall to drain off surplus water during heavy rains, but the fall should not be so great as to wash the soil. If the land near the house is level, artificial drainage should be employed. Open ditches or tile drains will be satisfactory. On level land that is not artificially drained it is necessary to plant on ridges or in beds to prevent drowning the crops during wet weather. The ridges or beds should be as wide and flat as conditions will allow, for narrow, sharp ridges dry out quickly.

Succession of Crops

In planning the location of crops, consideration should be given to the matter of succession, in order that the land may be occupied as large a part of the time as possible. It is not advisable to have a second planting of the same crop or a closely related crop follow the first. Cabbage should not follow cauliflower, brussels sprouts, mustard, or kale, for many of the same diseases and insects affect all of these crops. Tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers should not follow each other. In the diagram this point has been considered in planning a succession of crops. In some sections three or four crops can be grown on the same land each year, while in other sections two crops are all that can be grown to advantage. When a crop is harvested early in the season and it is not practicable to plant another vegetable for two or three months, the land may be planted to cowpeas or crimson clover. For example, after a crop of early cabbage it may not be desirable to plant another vegetable crop until late summer or autumn. In this case it would be desirable to sow cowpeas or crimson clover,

to be turned under in preparation for the fall crop.

Rotation of Crops

Rotation of crops is as important in growing vegetables as in growing field crops, and the same principles can be applied. Cop rotation is important in checking diseases and insects and in keeping the soil in good condition. Where diseases are very severe, the same crop should not be planted continuously on the same area. Rotation of crops is one of the safeguards against soil infection.

Both the plan for the small backyard garden given herewith and a plan for a half-acre garden previously described in this series are shown in the new Farmers' Bulletin (No. 647) entitled "The Home Garden in the South," which can be had by applying to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.—Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

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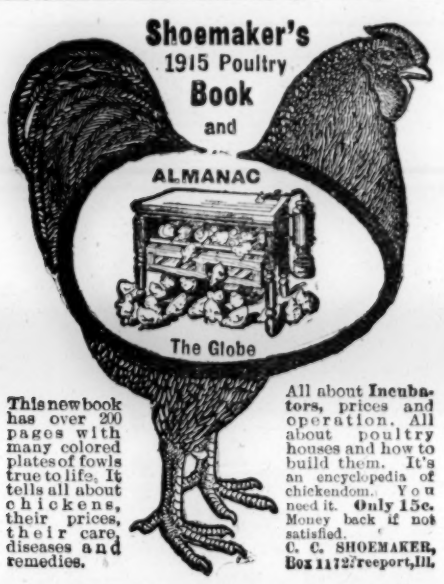
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A WHITE PAPER WHICH DESIRES TO BE FAIR

Ordinarily, it would not be "good business" to publish the letter below, since it is directly an advertisement of another farm paper. But the unusually high ground which the editor of the Southern Ruralist takes in his comments entitles the whole letter to be brought down word for word.

Working Upwards

Editor Ruralist—I feel compelled to write of what the Ruralist has done for me. In 1911 I met a traveling agent for your paper. I paid him for a subscription to the Southern Ruralist, hardly expecting to hear of him again. But in a reasonable time the paper came to my home and I have been reading it carefully ever since. I find that it is one of the best I have ever read.

Since I have been taking your paper I raise better cattle, keep mules and hogs in better condition, and the best of all, it has taught me how to grow more vegetables and how to live at home, without having to go to the "boss man" for everything that I want. I think it would be a Godsent blessing if your paper could go to the home of every Negro, as it has to me, so they could learn how our superiors are making a living, which we can very easily do if we try.

Jones H. Shaw, (Colored.)

Quebec, Louisiana.

Reply—This letter serves as an appropriate introduction to a few remarks we wish to make.

The Ruralist with two hundred and sixty thousand farmer subscribers in the Southern States must have in the aggregate a considerable number of Negro subscribers. Yet the number forms so insignificant a part of the whole and even the reading Negro is so little of a letter writer, that we gladly receive and commend this letter.

It carries inherent evidence of truth, sincerity and good sense. It is a concise record of agricultural progress and business success. The interesting thing is that the writer dates this success from his reading of the Ruralist.

The fact which we particularly wish to bring out is that the agricultural Negro of the South is working upward. He is doing better farming, owns more land, more live stock and produces better crops year by year. If he chances to be a reader of agricultural papers or a recipient of other help toward better farming, his progress is relatively greater.

It should be self-evident that the larger the proportion of this kind of Negro in any present country community, the better is the intellectual, social and financial standing of that community.

This condition is simply the inevitable result of the fixed law of averages. The larger the proportion of good people in any community, the higher is the standard of goodness for that community. The larger the proportion of good farmers in any locality the higher is the whole agricultural standard in that community.

The logic of this fact is that it is better for any place, any State or for the whole South, that the proportion of good farmers be increased. This means that more intelligent farming—diversification, live stock, better implements, improved methods—among Negroes should be encouraged. The whloe country would be the gainer.

The chief reason for comparative agricultural backwardness in the South lies in the fact of the relative ignorance and inferior skill of the Negro who farms so large a part of our Southern land.

The surest remedy would be to improve the whole by increasing the efficiency of the inferior part.

We believe that all instrumentalities known to aid agricultural progress—demonstration work, extension work, institutes, corn clubs, canning clubs, agricultural papers—should be made available to Negroes. We urge this not in the interest of the one race, but of the whole country. We do it because it is so important that all work upward.

These utterances are not those of the politician seeking to climb to office over the defenseless bodies of colored people; but they proceed from a man who is thinking in terms of the general good; and the man who, climbing over the little petty expediencies of today. thinks, speaks, and acts for the welfare of all the people is a statesman—a man who works for the good of the whole State.

Some of these days we shall come to see that right is right and that nothing else pays, whether in dealings with white people or colored people. That many persons are beginning to see this is hopeful. Any man can abuse Negroes, any weakling can try to harm him, any one can misrepresent him, but it takes a statesman, a God's-man, a strong man to help and encourage him to better things.

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FARMERS' DICTIONARY

The "Big Words" and Events Explained

How to Mix Fertilizers

For Late Potatoes—Nitrate of soda, 50 pounds; dried blood, 100; tankage, 100; acid phosphate, 600; sulphate or muriate of potash, 150. Use 600 to 800 pounds per acre.

For Sweet Potatoes—Tankage, 300 pounds; dried blood, 100; acid phosphate, 400; muriate of potash, 200.

For Green Garden Crops—Asparagus, cucumbers, early beets, cabbage, celery, eggplants, melons, peppers and squashes. No. 1. Nitrate of soda. 100 pounds; sulphate of ammonia, 100; dried blood, 150; ground bone, 100; acid phosphate, 450; muriate of potash, 150.

Use from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds per acre. It is sometimes desirable to apply at diffeent stages of growth rather than all at time of planting.

For Fruits and Berries—No. 1. Ground bone, 250 pounds; acid phosphate, 450; muriate of potash, 300.

For ordinary soils and for large fruits apply after trees come into bearing, 300 to 500 pounds per acre annually. For berries apply 400 to 600 pounds before setting, and annually thereafter.

For early spring application to trees and berries on light soils it is recommended to use formula No. 3: Nitrate of soda, 150 pounds; ground bone, 400; acid phosphate, 200; muriate of potash, 250.

For Timothy and Clover—Nitrate of soda, 50 pounds; tankage, 150; acid phosphate, 700; muriate of potash, 100; Apply 300 to 500 pounds per acre at seeding time

For Timothy Hay, Top Dressing—Nitrate of soda, 500 pounds; ground bone, 200; acid phosphate, 200; muriate of potash, 100. Apply 200 to 300 pounds per acre.

For Clover, Cowpeas, and Pasture—Ground bone, 150 pounds; acid phosphate, 600; muriate of potash, 250. Apply 300 to 500 pounds per acre.

For Turnips, Swedes and Rape—Nitrate of soda, 150 pounds; dried blood, 100; ground bone, 200; acid phosphate, 400; muriate of potash, 150. Apply 600 to 800 pounds per acre.—Agricultural Department, St Louis Weekly Globe-Democrat.

WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT

Household Accounts

The keeping of accounts is perhaps the most perplexing part of household management, and yet in the conducting of any business it is of the greatest importance to record receipts and expenditures, to keep a watchful eye on investments, and to determine at the end of the year the results of the business and the exact condition of the capital. If the modern household is to measure up to its possibilities it must be regarded as a business concern and be conducted as such.

Household accounts are hard to keep for several reasons. First, there are daily expenditures, and second many expenditures of small amounts. It is easy to remember buying a suit or the winter's supply of coal, paying the taxes or the rent, but carfare, a yeast cake, shoe laces, or a postage stamp, are items one forgets to make note of, and accounts that will not balance discourages the woman who is just beginning to run her household on a business basis. She feels that just to have a record of the money spent is not worth all the time and trouble she is putting into it. She is sure that she has been most economical in spending, but without records in black and white she forgets the twenty-five cents today and the twenty-five tomorrow spent unnecessarily, but which multiplied by three hundred and sixty-five, results in a sum worth considering.

Whether the system used is one of cards, envelopes, or books is of minor importance; but the housekeeper should cultivate a love for business-like management of household finances, or see in it possibilities large enough to create a willingness to give the thought and time necessary to make the keeping of household accounts a success.—Mary L. Oberlin, Extension Worker in Home Economics, Colorado Agricultural College.

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published Every Other Week, in The Negro Farmer Building, Greenwood, by THE NEGRO FARMER PUBLISHING CO.

ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter, February 14, 1914, at the Post Office at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price:

Per copy.....5 cents
Per year, post-paid.....$1.00
Six months.....50
Three months.....40
Foreign subscriptions, per year.....2.25

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Saturday, APRIL 10, 1915

MEMBER NATIONAL NEGRO PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Editor's Page

THE MOST DIRECT PATH TO HONORS

"Dear Mr. Fisher:

"Agreeing with President Buchanan, of Normal, that 'whatever subject you touch is always illuminated by your clear and concise treatment,' I want to ask you two questions which have been long on my mind:

"I am a student in College and will soon graduate. I want to do some work that will help my people; and I want to make some impression upon the thought of my times—in short, to be perfectly frank—I want some of the honors which the world gives.

"But it seems that colored men who receive honors are fought so bitterly by their own people that it isn't worth while to strive to live a noteworthy life.

"Is there any honorable line of work in which a colored person can engage without making himself a target for so much bitter criticism, often criticism which is unjust? Ought a person work consciously for honors?"

An Abrupt But Proper Reply

This is from a young man just getting ready; and he must be faithfully answered, so far as, out of my simple experiences, I am able to make replies.

To the first question, there must be no half-and-half answer; and I hope that every young colored person may have said to him at the beginning of his career these words: **"There is no honorable occupation in the world into which a man can put the best efforts of his life and escape bitter criticism."**

Why Best Efforts Are Criticised

The reason is simple. Best efforts mean efficiency and efficiency secures recognition and recognition brings honors. But only a few persons are willing to put their best efforts into anything. As a result, the few who do, stand out in bold relief against the multitudes who do not. And these multitudes who stubbornly refuse to worship at the shrine of highest efficiency regard the few who do as being a standing criticism of their own less efficient efforts; and so, to make their feebler starlight shine more brilliantly, they join forces in effort to "blow out" the light of the few suns shining around them with such effulgent rays.

The young College student making the inquiries has doubtless read in his study of the mind that the desire to excel is firmly planted in the human soul; and where one is outstripped by his fellows there usually awakens within him the evil passion of envy—a passion which unless subdued by the higher and finer self, moves the envious one to seek to destroy that which towers or seems to tower above him. And this disposition to destroy, either life, reputation, position, or honor, seems to have been born with the human race; for in the history of the early days of the world it is written that because the sacrifice which Abel offered to God was acceptable because it was the best he could offer, "Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him."

The stern arm of the law being now lifted so sternly against the taking of human life, mankind generally kills or seeks to kill, by criticism, the reputations of those who offer their best to God and their fellow men; and no man who tries to climb up may hope to escape. **If a man cannot endure this, he must stay in the ranks.**

How Honors Come

Ought one to seek honors? Turn back and read the history of the men whose fame has increased with the "process of the suns;" and it will be found that they were souls dedicated to the task of doing their best and trying to serve their fellow men, which latter is but another way of saying that they tried to serve their God. The records of these heroes prove that merit, service and unselfishness are the open doors to honors.

While I believe that for one to desire to be honored is perfectly natural and right, if one make that the dominant purpose of his life, he is certain to fail in securing honors. The reason is clear in this case also: If one is too desirous of receiving honors, he will seek to think, say, do, and be the things which seem to lead to honors. But that which seems to lead to honors does not always do so, and often the man will be disappointed. Again: to secure honors, one will often be tempted to do what is not right. If he yield, he may be honored for a while, but he will have laid the axe to the root of his own tree and at last his honors will be his dishonor.

But if a man begins his life determined to do his best in some honorable line and to serve his fellow man, "verily, I say unto you," if I may quote the language of the Christ, "he shall in no wise lose his reward." You cannot possibly make a mistake in moral purpose by trying to do your best and trying to help those about you.

The Master's Rule For Greatness and Honors

I hope my young questioner and all other young people who desire to be great and honored on earth will take their Bibles and read what Jesus said about becoming great. His views are found in the ninth chapter of Mark, in the thirty-third, thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth verses; in the ninth chapter of Luke, forty-sixth verse; and in the twentieth chapter of Matthew, verses twenty and on through the twenty-sixth.

As to Criticism of Colored Prominent Men

In one way, colored people share with the people of all races the desire to criticise and oppose their most prominent men. For proof of this, read the daily newspapers and see that all races "cast the contumelious stone" at all

those heroes who agonize for them. "Jerusalem" has always stoned her prophets. Every Moses must have his brother Aaron and sister Miriam who ask in envious rage, while the honored star-led one leads on: "Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?" This is the way of the world.

But in another way, colored people are at present just a little more inclined to oppose their prophets than some other races near us. The reason is clear: Surrounded by the great Caucasian race whose members move and may become exalted in any and all lines of human endeavor, the Negro longs for some of the same honors but is not admitted to all of them; indeed, he is restricted to the few fields which he is creating for himself. But in the larger avenues of politics, government, jurisprudence, and administration, as they affect municipality, State and Nation, his efforts are forbidden. Under these conditions, colored people place more emphasis upon honors than do some other races, because there are so many Negroes desiring honors and so many fields of honor closed in their faces on racial grounds.

The attitude of prevailing laws and customs relative to the Negro is that all Negroes must stand equal and that intrinsic merit shall give prominence and honor inside the race, only. There are some notable exceptions to this but the rule is as stated. I am not expressing any bitterness nor discouragement, but simply stating facts when I say that here is the supreme tragedy of these laws and customs of caste, namely, that they have worked so constantly and uniformly and unfairly that **they have tended to make Negroes feel that all of their race should of right stand on the same level, regardless of merits.** This feeling is often voiced in the "Jim Crow" cars by uncouth and worthless Negroes who, when rebuked by some respectable colored person for their unspeakable vulgarity, spit out the spiteful and cutting remark: "You ain't no better dan we is, eben ef you is er perfesser. You gotter ride in here wid us jes de same;" and there is no answer to these vulgar philosophers.

Could you expect, then, that we wouldn't be unusually envious of one who seems to be rising above the dead level which laws and customs have sought—are seeking—to prescribe for us? Do any of us wish to be left behind? Do any of us wish to have people say that we do not receive honors because we have not merited them? Verily, we do not. Later on, and we are, thank God, making progress in that direction, we shall come to higher ethical standards, we shall curb our envious dispositions, we shall permit no laws nor customs of the outside to make us so bitter and thoughtless as to crucify all our prophets of "Narazeth," we shall understand things "better bye-and-bye" and realize that whenever one of our number makes a breach through the walls of the city of honors he has made an opening through which some others of the race may pass; and instead of crying, "Away with the man! Crucify him!" we shall cry "Amen-" and the bands of our praise, the orchestras of our gratitude, and the choirs of our love shall play and sing: "Hail to the Chief." But that time is not yet here.

At present, sneers, criticisms, oppositions, misunderstandings, abuse, yes, and sometimes cursings are the rewards which the heroes often get. But all these are in the day's work; and if a man cannot take this treatment given to the commanders and captains and officers, he must step back into the ranks and mark time with the privates.

—ISAAC FISHER.

THE CORN ROOT-APHIS

(Aphis maidi-radicis, Forbes)

Thousands of dollars are lost to the farmers of Indiana every year by reason of the depredations of this insect. It belongs to the sucking class of true bugs, and does its work on the roots of the corn plants, where it sucks the life out the plant. Being wholly under ground, it is difficult to reach with insecticides.

These aphids are usually attended by ants, as the latter are very fond of the "honey dew" which is given out by the aphids through two little tubes, which are situated on the back of the adult insect. The ants even gather up the aphid eggs and store them in their nests where they are cared for during winter. During April and May, as soon as the smart-weed and fox-tail-grass make their appearance, these eggs begin to hatch and the ants carry the aphids and colonize them on the roots of these plants. As soon as the young corn plants are well started, the second brood of lice begins to appear and the ants transfer them to the corn roots where they continue to increase with great rapidity, and to suck the life out of the corn plants.

Remedies—It is evident from the above, that the land seldom becomes infested with these aphids until the second or possibly the third corn crop. If, therefore, a three or four-year rotation is practiced in which corn appears only once, there will be but little damage done by the insects. Then, too, the proper fertilization of the soil is of great importance, as it often enables the corn to make a crop in spite of the aphids.

As the ants protect the eggs in their nests during winter, it is a good plan to plow the field, which is intended for corn the second year, as late in the fall as possible and as deeply as possible, in order to break up the ants' nests. A couple of good, thorough, deep cultivations during the month of April will also help hold them in check. This will also assist in destroying the weeds which serve as a starter for the aphids in the spring.

Various kinds of materials have been tried with a view of finding something that would act as a repelant and so prevent the lice from attacking the plants. We have found that 100 pounds of kanit per acre, drilled in the row at the time the corn was planted, served to almost completely protect the plants; but, owing to the European war, it is quite likely that it will be difficult to get kainit this season. Dr. S. A. Forbes, of Illinois, has found that by mixing the seed corn with a solution of oil of lemon and wood alcohol, the lice were very much reduced. This was prepared for use by mixing one part of the oil of lemon with ten parts of alcohol, and three ounces of this mixture was thoroughly mixed with a gallon of corn. This did not injure the germination any to speak of. The expense was only about ten cents per acre. At the present price of the oil of lemon, the expense would be even less. Either of these remedies is recommended, especially on black ground, where the aphis is commonly found.—J. Troop, Chief in Entomology, Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

Colored Heroes of the Farm

COLORED BOY IS CHAMPION COTTON GROWER IN OKLAHOMA

Only 14 Years Old—Dewey Green Wins at Three Fairs—Joined Club With Non-colored Boys

Tulsa, Oklahoma, February.—Dewey Green, a 14-year-old colored boy of Tulsa County, is Oklahoma's champion cotton raiser. His exhibit was awarded first prize at the Oklahoma State Fair, Eastern Oklahoma Fair at Muskogee, and the Tulsa County Fair. What this ambitious little colored boy accomplished has brought him into favorable notice of the State Board of Agriculture.

Dewey Green resides with his father on a farm near Jenks, in the lowlands of the Arkansas River, which cannot be excelled in Oklahoma for cotton. He was enrolled in the Tulsa County Boys' Cotton Club early last year.

White Boys Scoffed

When it was announced that Dewey had decided to join the club the white boys in the club were inclined to view the advent of the Negro boy with disdain. "You can't get anywhere in a contest with white boys," was the fling one boy took at Dewey.

"You all jes' wait till pickin' time and I'll show you who can grow cotton," was the rejoinder of the lad.

Marvelous Output

On his one acre of cotton he made more money than did his father on 40 acres of the same land adjoining. Not only was the yield unusually heavy but in point of lint, number of bolls to the stalk and seed, it outgraded anything shown in the three fairs.

Dewey says he accomplished what he did by following out the instructions of the Department of Agriculture to the letter and by refusing to seek the shade when the torrid sun of July and August took all of the "play" out of experimental farming.

Dewey has enrolled in the Boys' Corn Club of Tulsa County and will go in for corn this year, as the disastrous luck attending the marketing of cotton owing to the war will have a tendency to eliminate cotton from the 1915 crops in Tulsa County.

If anything, the Negro farmers of Tulsa County take more interest in the efforts of the government to promote scientific farming than the whites. They attend agricultural meetings and listen with rapt attention to all that is said. Many Negro farmers are going in for wheat, oats and alfalfa who, until two years ago, had never raised anything but cotton and corn. All who tried wheat and oats in 1914 made money. Where they have planted alfalfa they have for the first time in their lives gone in for hog raising.—San Antonio (Texas) Citizen.

Efforts were made to secure Young Green's picture for our readers, but without success.—Editor.

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For the Colored Race
Maintained by the governments of the United States and of North Carolina. Three strong departments: Academic, Agricultural and Mechanical. Night school for the needy students. Well equipped. Trade school courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Bachelor of Science in Mechanics. Board, Lodging and Tuition $7.00 per month. Fall term begins September first, 1914.
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FOR MALES ONLY
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James B. Dudley, *President*, Greensboro, N. C.

THE CARE OF TOOLS

Many more tools are spoiled by improper grinding than by breaking on account of defects in the material or due to the original temper.

Tool grinding is what may be termed non-productive work, and while we believe the old saying, "no time is lost in putting tools in order," we are anxious to get through as soon as possible and get back to work.

Protecting the temper of tools is of the utmost importance. When you make sparks or turn blue spots on the edge of a tool you are injuring it. There are two ways by which heat may injure the metal of the tool. One way is by drawing the temper, and the other is by burning the edge, causing it to crumble.

Be patient with grinding tools. Take plenty of time and do the work thoroughly, and you will be rewarded by having tools that will hold their edge, and will do good, smooth work.—H. J. Wilson, Colorado Agricultural College.

HATCH EARLY AND GET WINTER EGGS

Much of our trouble with the stock egg production during the winter months, when eggs are high in price, is due to the late hatching of the laying stock. They are not hatched early enough, and consequently they do not reach maturity and start laying before cold weather comes, which will keep them from laying until in the spring.

If you get the young pullets laying before the first cold spell in the fall, they will lay all winter provided they are properly fed, kept free from lice and mites and housed properly.

It takes at least six months for pullets to start laying when fed from the start, that means eight months for the average poultryman, for they are not handled just as they should be, being fed too little, not fed a balanced ration, the use of poor stock, and allowed to get lousy.—J. A. Helmreich.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Write and tell this paper what you wouldlike to see appear inits columns. The papjer has two objects, that is to help the colored people in ways in which they should be helped, and to help them by giving them what they wish. Say what you want.

A PLACE FOR SHEEP ON THE FARM

The department urges the desirability of maintaining a small flock of sheep upon the farm. With proper care and attention a flock of 25 or 30 ewes can be kept at very little expense, and they will prove of inestimable value in freeing the farm from weeds and adding something to the farm income. In addition to providing a considerable supply of wholesome food for the farm table, there will be surplus for sale, and an additional item of revenue in the form of wool.

Many farmers make a practice of buying ewes in the fall, breeding them and selling the lambs the following summer. Such ewes can be carried through the winter on wheat and rye fields if not pastured too closely, or on clover hay with some roots and a little linseed meal. If the clover hay is not available corn fodder may be used as roughage, in which case it should always be supplemented with bran or linseed meal. Lambs should come early and should be taught to eat as soon as they are old enough. Give lambs access to corn by providing a creep through which they can go without allowing the ewes to follow.

For farm purposes the black-faced ewes are more popular than the others, although good results can frequently be obtained from the white-faced ones. In buying ewes, be sure that they stand well on their feet, have good straight backs and good mouths. Ewes that have broken teeth or teeth that are badly worn down should not be bought. As a rule, a sheep has one pair of permanent incisor teeth when it is 1 year old, two pairs when it is 2 years old and three pairs, or a full mouth, when 3 years old. A full-mouthed ewe, if the teeth are in good condition, can be used for breeding with good results although she may be as much as 5 years old. Never buy a ewe that has a broken mouth—that is, with teeth that have been broken off or lost.

None but a pure bred ram should be used. It is not necessary to have a show animal, but a strong, vigorous buck is essential. Shropshire, Oxford, Southdown, and Hampshire rams sire excellent mutton lambs, and these breeds are recommended for the farm States. A suitable ram can be bought for $8 to $20.

The two principal drawbacks to the sheep industry in the farm States are dogs and stomach worms. The dog nuisance can be obviated to a great extent by placing dog-proof fences around the pastures. The United States Forest Service has had excellent results in protecting sheep from coyotes and wolves by building fences constructed in the following manner: A barb wire is first stapled to the posts right on the surface of the ground. Three inches above this is placed a panel of close-woven wire, 36 inches high, and above this two strands of ordinary barbed wire. Care should be taken that there are no openings between the ground and the lowest barbed wire. An inclosure made in this manner, into which sheep may be turned at night, is inexpensive, and dogs will not get through it. Most of the damage by dogs is done at night.

The presence of stomach worms is a very serious drawback. The young lambs become infested with them by eating grass to which the worms have attached themselves, the eggs being deposited by the mature sheep. It is therefore desirable to keep the lambs on land on which the mature sheep have not run, and if possible, in case of bad infestations, to keep the lambs away from the mature sheep as much as possible.

In the farm States the farmers will find it to their best advantage to regard the wool from the sheep as a by-product, and direct their principal attention to the production of lambs and mutton for the table.—Weekly News Letter, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TO KEEP FLIES AWAY FROM STOCK

There is probably nothing that will keep flies away from livestock, to the extent that they will not be more or less irritated by them.

Most of the coal tar products used for "dips" to kill external parasites, are useful when used over the body, well diluted, and applied from a spray pump. Oil of tar or pine tar can often be used to advantage in protecting places that have become sore from the irritation of flies .

The following mixture has usually given as much satisfaction as any other: Synthetic oil of sassafras, four ounces; lard, or neats foot oil, two pints, and crude petroleum enough to make one gallon. This will cost about $1.00 a gallon.

This mixture should not be expensive and will not need to be applied as often as the other. Fish oil 100 parts; Oil of Tar 50 parts and Crude carbolic acid 1 part.

The best way to "swat the fly" is before he is born. Allowing piles of manure to accumulate in the stables and yards, for fliess to breed in, and then applying some kind of "dope" to keep flies away from the animals, is inconsistent to say the least.

G. H. GLOVER.

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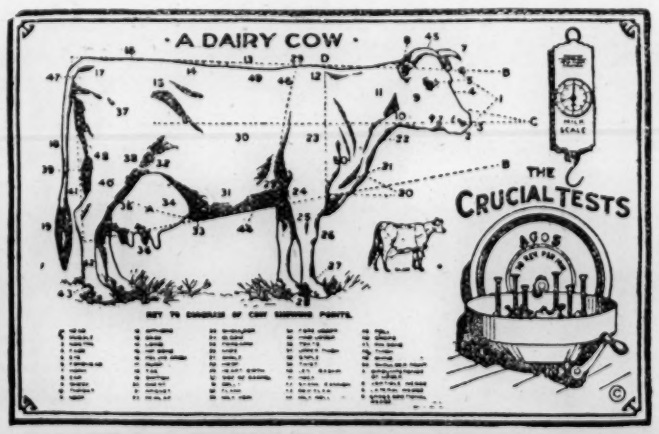

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THE NEGRO FARMER, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

MEANING OF DIVERSIFIED FARMING

Diversified Farming Means

I. Growing as nearly as possible the living for the family and the feed for live stock on the farm. No farmer ever failed, that is, lost his home or his credit, if he and his family made a good garden in which they grew everything they could grow for their own table, canned, pickled or otherwise preserved a good supply for winter—kept fifty or more young hens and took care of them—milked even three to five good farmers' cows and took good care of the calves—had a couple of brood sows and took care of them and the offspring—raised the feed for this little bunch of stock, then raised all the cotton, corn, wheat, or whatever is best for his locality he could, and took reasonably good care of his money. A farmer cannot fail who goes at it in that way, and stays by that system. Why?. The living is practically raised on the farm. There will always be a little surplus of something to sell—a little fruit or a few eggs or some milk—soon some hogs and in a couple of years a two year old steer or two each year. Then too the herds and flocks will continually increase as the farmer is able to take care of the larger numbers.

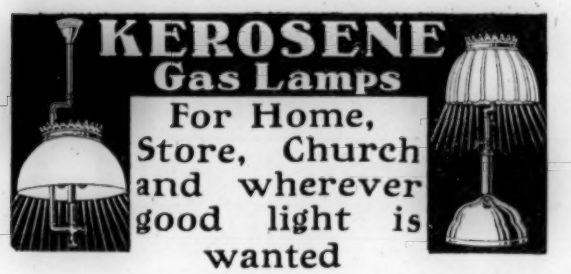
II. There is so much less to buy when farming in this way. Less store bill, no feed bill and little or no fertilizer to pay for.

III. The soil is getting better and the farm worth more money. Farming by any other system than Diversification means the soil getting poorer and harder to plow, or cultivate, drying out quicker in summer, washing and baking worse, and these conditions always mean farms of little value either to sell or to keep.

IV. There is something growing into money every day in the year. There are no star boarders on a well directed farm where diversification is practiced. The men have work the year round, planting crop—cultivating—making hay—harvesting—plowing, while the stock is grazing; then during winter feeding, hauling out manure and marketing the animal crop.

Every feed given a good animal means its conversion into a higher priced product.

When provision has been made for growing in the garden the fruits, vegetables, roots, potatoes, etc., for the family the entire year, and for producing in the fields plenty of good feed for the live stock, the farmer may then grow whatever money crops he prefers on the balance of the farm. Generally speaking it would be better to grow two kinds of crops for sale for the reason that two can be selected requiring different weather conditions. For example oats do best with cool moist weather when filling. But corn or cotton do best with hot weather at the time the oats want it cool. Hence where a considerable number of acres are to be planted to crops to be sold it is advisable to use at least two crops and select such as do their best under different weather conditions. Certainly to have a good crop from ten acres is better than taking chances on twenty acres. Then too it distributes the work. The two do not have to be planted, cultivated or harvested at the same time.—I. H. C. Agricultural Lecture Book.



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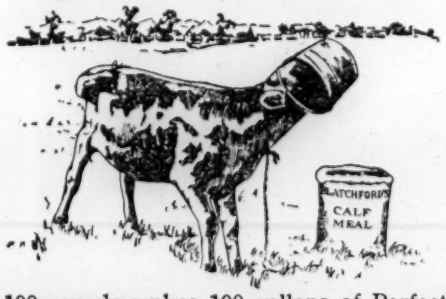

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  Some one will answer please;
Do hard times he'p de folks or not,
  Now don't come tryin' ter tease.

Des pull de rag rat off de bush
  An' tell de truff one time;
You know when things went easy, chil',
  You didn't save a dime.

Yer never thought uv savin' till
  Dis cotton taught yer how;
An' dis lesson will las' some time,
  Um preachin' ter yer now.

Dem folks dat let de money out
  Won't turn it loose so free;
Fer dey come near er losin' all,
  An' ain't safe yit, b'lieve me.

Dat gam'lin' an' dat cussin' man,
  Done lurn ter say deir pray'rs;
An' wimin done let tango 'lone,
  An' cut out so much airs.

So don't tell me dat hard times hurt,
  Dey simply he'p a man;
Dem shif'less, lazy, thoughtless folks,
  Lurn how ter skeam an' plan.

So ev'y one it don't kill out,
  'Twill make him better see;
An' folks will lurn ter live at home,
  Den panicks cannot be.

—William E. Dancer.

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